

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 22, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Rolle Hatfield, Trinity Free Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:
None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for October 22, 2019. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 08, 2019. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mrs. Barron had no reports.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk had no reports. Mr. Pettit asked police Chief Kevin Markle if signs as well as barrier patrol could be placed on 97th Grand Blvd due to complaints concerning speeding.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit said in the Personal Policy and Employee Benefits meeting that was before the Town Council Meeting the health insurance renewals are being looked over and referrals will be made at the November 12th Town Council Meeting. Packets of health insurance information are available with Mr. Reardon.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac reported that branches have fallen due to the wind. Mr. Hardaway informed that the street department is out now picking up branches around the Town of Merrillville.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca had no report but referred to Ms. Orlich. Ms. Orlich reported that four parks have been selected to receive 30 trees from the Town of Merrillville tree species list. A planting plan for the trees has been developed which Ms. Orlich is now receiving quotes for which will then ultimately go to Dan Repay in hopes to take advantage of the Little Kale River Basin Project Grant. Ms. Orlich reported the Town Hall will be opened October 31st from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. for trick or treating. Ms. Orlich reported that once Resolution 19-41 is approved the Crescent Lake Park will be able to take advantage of the 65-35 Sinclair Recreation Grant. Ms. Orlich made mention to the 2020 Census which will begin in January. They are now organizing teams to get a complete count for the Town of Merrillville. Finally, Ms. Orlich reported the Census Bureau is now hiring at 8585 Broadway, applications can be picked up or found online at 2020census.gov/jobs.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron had no reports but referred to Mr. Lake. Mr. Lake informed that the Dyer Construction has finished installing the concrete box on Taft St. north of 73rd. Mr. Lake congratulated the construction team on finishing the project in 7 days when they were allotted 20 days. Mr. Lake announced the success of the River Basin study that was received. Currently they are in the process of land acquisition and acquiring partners such as the Lake County Surveyor, the City of Gary and the City of Hobart to get engineering started. This complex would be a \$17 million project in the Gary area which consists of abandon properties. Mowing in the Crescent Lake Park will be finished.

Mr. Hardaway reported that a meeting with the Gary Sanitary District, ICD and MCD has taken place to start dialog for the Meadow Dale/ Meadow Land subdivision. The meetings will continue until a resolution is made which will consist of no person having sanitary sewer in their basement. Mr. Spann congratulated Mr. Lake on a job well done on Taft St. as it can become hazardous around the seasons. Mr. Lake finally reported modification for the basin behind the Dairy Queen on Taft St will take place.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac announced there will be an election the first Tuesday of November for the 5th and 7th Ward from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit informed there is gala that will take November 23rd at 6p.m. at The Avalon Manor which will acknowledge the policeman and fireman of the year. Two tables are available if council members are interested they are asked to speak with Ms. Rosas in the Town Managers office.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mr. Spann had no reports.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES: President Hardaway had no reports.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING: (Discussion and Roll Call)

SECOND READING:

Ordinance 19-24, (Discussion, Public Comment and Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance of The Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing additional appropriations within the 2017 G.O. Bond Road Improvement than was originally appropriated in the annual budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 19-40, (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2019 Budget within the Fire & Hazmat Fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 19-41, (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2019 Budget within the Park's General Fund for the purpose of purchasing a playground through a 65/35 Grant from Sinclair Recreation/Game Time. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 19-44, (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A resolution of The Town Council of The Town of Merrillville, Indiana, approving various matters in connection with the lease of a new Community Center in the Town. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a 6-1 voice vote.

Resolution 19-45, (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A Resolution of The Town Council of The Town of Merrillville, Indiana, approving a lease between The Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Authority and The Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission, and addressing matters related thereto. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 19-46, (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A Resolution of The Town Council of The Town of Merrillville, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2019 Budget within the Local Road and Street Fund Budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter from Town Engineer Steven King recommending that Merrillville continue with contracts with First Group Engineering, Inc. regarding the Americans With Disabilities Compliance Project – East Side Sidewalk and Curb Ramp, Along Broadway Avenue (SR 53) and Lincoln Highway (US 30) and VS Engineering regarding the 2019 Merrillville Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project – Catherine Street – E. 73rd Avenue to E. 70th Avenue, E. 70th Avenue – Broadway to Connecticut Avenue, and E. 71st Avenue – Broadway to Delaware Street. Mr. King gave a report and said we should approve contracts to move forward. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning and Appeals Meeting Oct. 23rd at 6:30 pm

Abandoned & Blighted Properties Committee Meeting Oct. 24th at 2:30 pm

Stormwater Management Board Meeting November 6th at 4:30 pm

Plan Commission Workshop November 6th at 6:30 pm

Town Hall closed November 11th

November 11, 2019 in observance of Veterans Day

Town Council Meeting November 12th at 6:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Barron.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer